One-State is introduced to the implied reader through a newspaper article. This article tells them of the glory of One-State, the glory of its Benefactor. In fact, the One-State even believes its existence is logical and that it has “mathematically infallible happiness” (Zamyatin, p. 3). The way the reader is shown this One-State immediately gives the idea of communism, of total control. The One-State even asserts that should the unknown creatures on alien planets not understand this happiness, “it will be our duty to force them to be happy” (Zamyatin, p. 3). The implied audience is supposed to feel that this One-State is a perfect utopia, but the actual reader is immediately guided, almost forced, to understand that this One-State is not a utopia. It is instead a state of totalitarianism, one that is ruled by the almighty Benefactor.

The existence of One-State is justified to the reader simply because it exists. D-503 uses the analogy of man once having a tail. “But can you imagine yourself now with a tail…I cannot picture a city without the dressing of the Green Wall, I cannot picture a life not expressed in the numerical overlay of the Table”( (Zamyatin, p. 12). D-503 presents the idea of a perfect life with an illogical explanation. Based on his reasoning, if the One-State were to fail, and the walls were to come down, he would initially mourn the passing of One-State, much like man mourned the losing of his tail. However, he would come to appreciate whatever new life lay ahead of him. In the end, he would look back and consider it absurd to live under the rule of One-State.

In One-State, each individual believes that he or she is contributing to the greater good of the State. Each person has a role, be those ciphers, teachers, or guardians. The people do not believe in the term “I” or “You”, but instead use “We”, and even consider the term to be offensive. When addressed as “you”, D-503 has this feeling: “She used an ancient, long-forgotten pronunciation of “You,” the “You” of the owner to the slave, and it entered my sharply, slowly” (Zamyatin, p. 64). D-503 believes that by being a We, he is cooperating, however, he is merely being obedient. This mistake is often made; from childhood, children are taught to be obedient, to follow instructions and believe lies, and not to question it. The issue with this, according to Claude Steiner is “after many years of obedience training, we become adults and we’re expected to suddenly think for ourselves…Unfortunately, for many of us, that is very difficult, given our childhood training” (Steiner, p. 51). He goes on to say that while we are told as adults to not believe deception, and refuse to be told how to think, we are also told to believe in people of authorities, such as scientists, politicians, and police.